

first day-workers site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994.

I relied on a fundamental American principle: All men and women are created equal. It is not that all men and women with a passport are created equal, or all men and women with a green card are created equal. Every human being should be treated with human respect and dignity, and we have failed to address this problem for 30 years.

Those same men who gathered on the street corners 27 years ago now have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's degree in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject. But, now, he is suffering every day, worrying about his immigration status, worried about how this court ruling will affect him and his family.

Dreamers have been shaken yet again. Let's fix this. Let's do it. Dreamers are ready to live the same American success story that my father lived.

Let's give Dreamers, TPS recipients, farmworkers, and other essential workers a path to citizenship, and let's do it now.

STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and in opposition to communism.

In the last week, we have seen thousands of people in Cuba rise up in protest against the decades-long communist regime that has oppressed millions.

Since these protests began, more than 100 people have been detained by the communist government or have been reported missing. In response to these protests, the government has shut down communications, turning off internet service to their own people.

When I see what is happening in Cuba, I am reminded again why America is the greatest country on Earth. In our country, a first-generation Korean American can build an American Dream here and become a Congresswoman. In our country, we respect and value our freedom of speech and expression.

My parents fled North Korea and the country's communist rule. My family knows what it was like to have to wait in line for basic necessities. That is not how people deserve to live, and that is how the people of Cuba are forced to live every day under communist rule.

We should stand with the people of Cuba. I stand with those fighting for freedom, justice, and democracy.

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the crisis on our

southern border. As an immigrant to this country, I strongly support legal immigration and a system that is grounded in the rule of law.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. They add to the rich fabric of our country. However, we are also a nation of laws. The crisis on our southern border is not law and order.

As a Representative from California, a border State, I often hear from my constituents about their concerns with the chaos at our border created by the Biden administration's policies. The security of our borders and enforcement of our immigration laws are vital to the safety and security of our Nation.

We must contain this crisis and make it clear to the people that to come to America, you must do it legally.

REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD IMMEDIATELY FOR CAPITOL RESPONSE MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, "Always Ready. Always There." That is the motto of our National Guard, our citizen soldiers, who, since 1636, have been prepared at all times as the first line of defense for our country.

When a natural disaster strikes—hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When a human-made disaster strikes—chemical spills, large-scale electrical power outages—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When States and local governments get overwhelmed because of situations beyond their control, who do those Governors, mayors, and State legislatures call? They call the National Guard.

When a global health pandemic cripples the country, who do we call? We call the National Guard.

And when an assault on our Nation's Capitol, a deadly insurrection, happens, who do we call to protect this hallowed beacon of democracy, to ensure a safe, peaceful transfer of power can occur? We called the National Guard.

Every single time—"Always Ready. Always There"—the National Guard has answered the call. Our National Guard keeps us safe and has done so since the inception of our democracy.

Following the deadly January 6 insurrection and leading up to the inauguration of our President and Vice President on January 20, Congress called upon the National Guard, and an unprecedented 26,700 guardsmen from across the country were deployed to secure our Nation's Capitol and protect the very lawmakers and staff that work in this Capitol.

The Guard then continued to serve and support civil authorities in Washington, D.C., for the next 137 days. They left their families. Many took un-

expected leave from their civilian jobs during a health pandemic to report to our Nation's Capitol. They stood watch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, many times in the frigid cold in the dark of night.

Many of us got to know them personally. We brought them food, coffee. We met them on the ramp at Andrews Air Force Base. We took pictures on the Capitol steps. We shook their hands and thanked them and their families for their service.

Our National Guard fulfilled their duty bravely and completed their mission. Now, it is Congress' turn to not only pay our respects but pay the bill that is due. What bill? What am I talking about? Well, it cost \$521 million to protect our Nation's Capitol for those 137 days.

National Guard leadership, adjutant generals, and State Governors sent their guardsmen to our Nation's Capitol with the promise that those funds would be repaid in a timely manner. As a result, the Army and Air National Guard paid for the Capitol Response mission and fronted the money from their own fiscal year 2021 funding. Time is of the essence, and we must pay them the money that we owe immediately and before August 1.

The reality is, if we fail to issue reimbursements by August 1, there will be real consequences. The National Guard Bureau has already sent out notices to States regarding canceling the remaining annual training days and/or canceling August and September drills. If training is canceled, several thousand guardsmen will not have enough service time this fiscal year to receive credit for a good year toward military retirement.

Approximately 2,000 functional and occupational training schools will be canceled, affecting their readiness, pay, and career progression. Ground vehicle and rotary wing operations and maintenance will be halted. Air National Guard flying operations will be negatively impacted, as they just only now begin the recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade combat training center rotation next month, in August, will be canceled.

Without reimbursement by August 1, it will take years to recover our readiness, which will be immediately impacted and decrease by up to 20 percent.

Those are some of the operational and readiness impacts of not meeting that August 1 deadline. But the real damages, Madam Speaker, are the profound personal impacts, which will have an immediate effect on the morale of those soldiers and airmen, their families, and retention across the 54 States and territories.

The increased psychological stress on our National Guard servicemembers and families in an already highly stressed environment is absolutely unacceptable. They are being asked to suffer, to sacrifice, because this body,